

Daley updates
Fakebook profile **3**

What killed S. Side
Irish Parade **9**

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a Dreamgirl **41**

Fun in the dark
for Earth Hour **21**



Friday
MARCH 27, 2009

redeyechicago.com

A Chicago Tribune
publication

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REDEYE PHOTO ILLUSTRATION

Mega Seth

Acting, writing—Rogen is everywhere.
See what's next for America's
funniest Canadian **pages 32-33**



2do

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To challenge

Design a viral marketing campaign, billboard or new product for Chicken of the Sea and enter it at apprenticechallenge2009.com and you could win a trip for two to the season finale of "The Celebrity Apprentice."

To cook

Learn techniques for roasting a chicken and cooking gnocchi and risotto while tasting samples paired with wine at 11:30 a.m. Saturday at Gioco (1312 S. Wabash Ave.). \$30. Reservations required by calling 312-939-3870.



AP

Aye, aye caption

Thursday's winning caption: "King Kong ain't got nothing on me!"
—AL CORONA

CHECK BACK NEXT WEEK FOR MORE HILARIOUSLY UNLABELED PHOTOS.

txtable

Celeb twin

Do you look like a celebrity? Show us! Send your picture along with the name of the celeb who shares your style to dlhernandez@tribune.com. For Friday, we have David Cowan. Think he's a ringer for Kobe Bryant? Text "twin" and the number of your opinion to 87708. You'll get poll results instantly.

1. Dead on 2. Way off



Cowan

Bryant



46 32
TODAY'S FORECAST

Hey, where'd that warmth go?



SAT.

41
34

Lots of rain

SUN.

44
30

Shuffle in the rain?



MON.

51
38

Lookin' up

TUE.

52
31

Clouds, rain ... snow?

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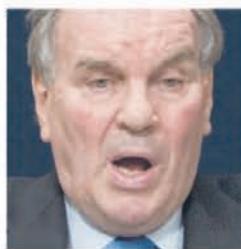
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What your Facebook profile would look like ... if you had cooler and more powerful friends. For Friday, RedEye takes a crack at Mayor Daley.

[News Feed](#) [Status Updates](#) [Photos](#)



Mayor Daley is sorry about corrupt hiring practices at City Hall, but not sorry about laughing at **Paula Abdul's** mustache on "Idol."

15 minutes ago — Comment



Mayor Daley wants people on their best behavior for when the IOC comes to town—or else.

4 hours, 13 minutes ago — Comment



Mayor Daley wrote on **Chicago Parking Meters LLC's** wall: "Managing those meters isn't as easy as you thought, now, is it?"

15 hours ago — Comment



Mayor Daley is friends with **John Kass**.

23 hours ago — Comment



Mayor Daley is bummed about the South Side Irish St. Patrick's Day Parade.

Two days ago — 1 comment



Lucky the Leprechaun at 2:12 p.m. B'gorah! Soon as I heard that, I nearly threw me lucky keyboard!



Tribune File

Lights out, Chicago

RedEye

For at least one hour this weekend, Chicago businesses and residences will embrace the dark side.

They'll be turning off their lights to mark Earth Hour, set for 8:30 p.m. Saturday. Last year, more than 1,400 landmarks, businesses and schools participated, event organizers estimate.

Earth Hour organizers are touting global participation in this year's event, designed to call attention to energy conservation and its role in climate change. Chicago has been designated a "flagship city" in the U.S. along with Atlanta, Las Vegas and San Francisco, among others.

Last year, organizers estimated ...

More than 200 downtown buildings participated. **Nearly 500 area McDonald's locations participated.** **Nearly 200 Walgreens locations participated.** **9 colleges and universities participated.** **15 museums and parks participated.**

ComEd, a sponsor in Chicago, reported Earth Hour electricity savings of 7 percent in the city and across their northern Illinois service territory.

» FIND EARTH HOUR-THEMED EVENTS ON PAGE 21 AND IN SATURDAY'S WEEKEND EDITION.

Traffic stop keeps NFL player from dying relative

Associated Press

DALLAS A police officer was placed on administrative leave Thursday over a traffic stop involving an NFL player whom he kept in a hospital parking lot and threatened to arrest while his mother-in-law died inside the building.

Officer Robert Powell also drew his gun during the March 18 incident involving Houston Texans running back Ryan Moats in the Dallas suburb of Plano, police said.

"He was pointing a gun at me as soon as I got out of the car," Tamishia Moats, wife of



Ryan Moats, told The Dallas Morning News, which first reported that Powell unholstered his sidearm.

"I can screw you over," he said at one point in the videotaped incident. When another officer came with word that Moats' mother-in-law was dying, Powell's response was: "All right. I'm almost done."

Dallas Police Chief David Kunkle apologized to the family and announced that Powell would be on paid leave pending an internal investigation.

Powell, 25, a three-year member of the force, stopped Moats' SUV outside Baylor Regional Medical Center at Plano after Moats

rolled through a red light.

Police officials said Powell told his commanders he believed he was doing his job, and that he drew his gun but did not point it. Kunkle said Powell was not necessarily acting improperly when he pulled his weapon out, but that once he realized what was happening should have put the gun back, apologized and offered to help the family in any way.

"His behavior, in my opinion, did not exhibit the common sense ... that we expect our officers to exhibit," Kunkle said.



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page four

KYRA KYLES

kkyles@tribune.com

CRUSH GROOVE

Share your ultimate TV crush, and why you l-o-v-e them, with Kyra at **kkyles@tribune.com**. Please include your full name, age and neighborhood, as we may run your comment in the paper.

SOUND OFF

This week, V103 (102.7-FM) took the syndicated "Tom Joyner Morning Show" off the local airwaves with no real warning. I grew up listening to, and love, Joyner and want him and his team to stick around. How do you feel about losing Joyner? Send your comment in an e-mail to **kkyles@tribune.com**.

Oh, my TV crushes

Come on, guys, stop the sulk-fest. So what if one of your teen-era TV crushes is officially off the market?

Danica McKellar, or Winnie, as she was known on "The Wonder Years," got hitched last weekend. There is a staggering number of online comments from fellas lamenting her new non-single status.

It's tempting to crack jokes about an infatuation that started when there was still a Soviet Union.

But hey, I've fallen for a TV star once or twice ... maybe thrice.

Brian Bloom

Daytime dramas are rubbish, but there was one soap, rather a soap actor, that caught my attention back in the day. His name is Brian Bloom, and he is billed as the "original Dusty" on "As the World Turns." Despite his mullet, Bloom offered a killer combo of dark hair, blue eyes and boyish good looks. Sadly, the star has since fallen from fine to frump, but in the '80s, he was on top of the "World."

Bumper Robinson

Flawless skin. Killer cheekbones. Piercing eyes. Bumper Robinson has been in the business since he broke out in his role as an adorable urchin on "Night Court." But unlike some cute child stars who grow up to be aesthetically challenged, Robinson upped the fine factor over the years, unleashing his awesomeness in appearances on shows including "A Different World" and "The Game."

'Lost' loves

It's hard to pick the hottest hunk on "Lost." Characters Jack and Sawyer are island eye candy. Desmond is one bad brutha, and don't even get me started on Sayid. But if forced to choose, my vote goes to Jin tied with the now departed Mr. Eko. The actor who played Eko (Adewale Akinnuoye-Agbaje) also steamed up my screen as Adebisi on HBO's "Oz," all while rocking a Chilly Willy hat.

Idris Elba

Once renowned for his role as a drug dealer with the mind of an MBA on "The Wire," Elba is currently (and cruelly) dressing down Michael Scott on "The Office." Elba is the epitome of sexiness, so I still heart him, even if his "Office" character is a borderline bully.

Alec Baldwin

He is rumored to be an arse off screen and got caught calling his young daughter a rude pig in the voice mail heard 'round the world. Still, Alec is the most beautiful Baldwin bro. That's why I was outraged during a recent "30 Rock" episode that suggested his character's looks had faded with age. Puh-leaze. I'd take a graying Baldwin over those twentysomething "Gossip Girl" guys any day. XOXO.

CORRECTION

A Thursday Metromix story listed the wrong date for Novem's Spring Line Release Party. The event happens Friday.



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An Olympics guarantee

Economic benefits promised for resident groups, minorities

Chicago Tribune

The Chicago Olympic bid team sought to smooth over potential community opposition to the 2016 Games with a signed agreement Thursday guaranteeing some economic benefits would go to minorities and resident groups.

Goals for creating affordable housing and opportunities for job-training and minority contracts were outlined in a written agreement between the Chicago 2016 group and an advisory council drawn from community and minority leaders. Some of the concerned community groups not directly involved in the months-long negotiations said they were cautiously optimistic. The biggest concerns appear to have been met, said Jay Travis, executive director of the Kenwood Oakland Community Organization.

"I think it's a good start. That's all I'm going to say right now," said Ald. Toni Preckwinkle (4th), who was deeply involved in the benefits discussion. "I really want to review it and talk to some of the activists we worked with in putting this ordinance together."

The City Council plans to consider writing the agreement into an ordinance as early



Outreach Advisory Council co-chairmen Michael Scott and Terry Peterson on Thursday sign an agreement outlining "objectives" addressing community concerns. MICHAEL TERCHA/TRIBUNE

as Friday.

Negotiators set a goal of turning 30 percent of the residential housing built for the Olympic Village on the South Side into affordable housing for low- and moderate-income families after the Games. The agreement guarantees a floor of at least 20 percent affordable housing.

The agreement also sets a goal of at least 25 percent of contracts going to firms that qualify as minority owned, and 5 percent going to women-owned firms.

Chicago 2016 President Lori Healy said she believes the diversity initiative could reach about 40 percent of contracts, as was the case in Atlanta for the 1996 Games.

"This agreement helps cement the spirit of inclusiveness and equality within the areas of hiring, contracting and housing," Healy said.

The agreement, which was signed at a news conference by Outreach Advisory Council co-chairmen Michael Scott and Terry Peterson, covers "75 key objectives." Organizers said they had met "most" of the issues raised by community groups in recent months.

Meanwhile in Springfield, the Senate sent Gov. Quinn a bill that would provide a \$250 million state guarantee to bolster Chicago's bid. Quinn has committed to supporting the guarantee, which Olympics supporters say would only be used in the unlikely event the Chicago games lose money and the losses eat through other financial guarantees.

Both chambers passed the bill with bipartisan support, although a provision was added for Downstate lawmakers that sponsoring Sen. Kwame Raoul (D-Chicago) called a "security blanket."

"If we were to tap into that guarantee," Raoul said. "There would be for every dollar spent ... a dollar invested in Downstate roads."

Chicago Olympics supporters had sought the higher guarantee, which dwarfed the \$150 million in taxpayer money pledged in 2007 by then-Gov. Rod Blagojevich. It comes amid worries that Chicago's bid is at a competitive disadvantage because it doesn't include the full government guarantees offered by rival finalists around the world.

So luxurious, you'll freak

Chicago Tribune

Sandwich delivery drivers aren't known for their flashy cars, but Justin Harris of Evanston is an exception.

Harris, 21, showed up a few weeks ago in a shiny gold 2003 Jaguar XJ8 to apply for a job as a delivery driver at Jimmy John's sandwich shop in the North Shore suburb.

He got the job, and store owner Tom Ryan promptly placed one of his magnetic "Jimmy John's Freaky Fast Delivery" signs to the roof of the \$60,000 automobile.

Harris has been answering questions about the car ever since, especially from shocked customers and motorists on his delivery route.



"Most people just laugh about it, but I do get a lot of weird looks," Harris said.

Customers have asked Ryan if he's paying his drivers too much, or if he added an unemployed business executive to his payroll.

The truth is, Harris said, the Jaguar belongs to his mother. She agreed to loan him the car after he abandoned his 1995 Chevrolet Cavalier in Atlanta when he left college earlier this year.

Harris said he sometimes wishes he still had the Cavalier. The Jaguar needs premium gasoline—unlike the Chevy—and "I can't drive it as willy-nilly as I drive my own car," he said.

Plus, customers tip better when you're driving a clunker, he said.



Justin Harris, 21, uses his mother's \$60,000 Jaguar to make deliveries for the Jimmy John's sandwich shop in Evanston. BONNIE TRAFEL/Tribune



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Numbers behind parade's demise

In the end, it was the numbers that killed the South Side Irish Parade.

Nearly a dozen officers assaulted.

Fifty-four people arrested.

More than 300,000 people crammed along a 24-block stretch.

When confronted with those figures at their annual wrap-up meeting Tuesday, the South Side Irish Parade Committee took an unplanned vote to end the parade. In a community where ties to law enforcement are valued as much as Irish ancestry, the event's fate seemed certain.

"When people feel entitled to attack a police officer, then it has gone too far," said committee spokeswoman Mary Beth Sheehan.

On Thursday, a day after committee members announced the end of the 30-year-old parade, they offered glimpses into the emotional meeting where the decision was made.

"We fought hard to keep this going," said Kevin Norris, a committee member who marched in the first parade at age 9. "It's just come to the point where it was too rowdy."

Though the group often discussed the huge crowds and drunken revelry that had come to define the event in recent years, they had never taken a vote before Tuesday night, members said. Several members, however, called for one after listening to Chicago Police Department reports from this year's event.

After an emotional debate, a divided committee narrowly voted to suspend the event. It was a gut-wrenching decision for members, many of whom watched their parents build the parade into one of the nation's most renowned St. Patrick's Day celebrations. Just last week, President Obama boasted about the event to Brian Cowen, Ireland's taoiseach (prime minister).

Mob turncoat sentenced

Nicholas Calabrese, the only "made" member of the Chicago Outfit to cooperate with law enforcement against the mob, was sentenced to 12 years and 4 months in prison Thursday for more than a dozen gangland slayings decades ago. Calabrese's testimony at the landmark Family Secrets trial in 2007 was crucial to prosecutors winning convictions of top mobsters Joey "the Clown" Lombardo, James Marcello and Calabrese's brother, Frank Calabrese Sr., all of whom have been sentenced to life terms.

Toll violators get break

The Illinois tollway board approved a "toll violation spring cleaning program" Thursday, eliminating a \$50 escalation on fines for scofflaws through June 30. The action means that alleged toll violators who have cases pending against them will be required to pay their missed tolls and a \$20 fine for each violation. The resolution that board members approved cited "tough economic times given the downturn in the global economy."



Lincoln Park Zoo chimp dies

An adolescent male chimpanzee at Lincoln Park Zoo has died after a mysterious upper respiratory infection swept through all seven members of the group he lived with late last week. Kipper, a 9-year-old, died Tuesday in the zoo hospital, where he had been taken a day earlier as his condition worsened. **NANCY STONE/Tribune**

Welcome to 'Twitter Island'

What would happen if you put about 30 strangers in a room, assigned them Twitter profiles and told them they could only tweet to one another? Two locals are about to find out.

Artists Lauri Apple and Seth Gershberg are staging "Twitter Island" at the Chicago Art Department Gallery at 1 p.m. Saturday

at 1837 S. Halsted St. The experiment is designed to examine the effects of technology on interpersonal communication, Apple said.

The duo, which has attracted 35 volunteers as of press time, will ask half the room to tweet unsupervised, while the other half will work with a moderator who will shape

their online discussion.

Apple, who initially thought Twitter was "kinda silly," now says it has evolved into an informational tool.

"I can really see the utility of it, and it'd be interesting to see how this experiment will affect that process," she said.

KYRA KYLES, REDEYE

Cop's home searched

Chicago police executed a search warrant Thursday at the Far South Side home of one of their fellow officers, authorities said. The officer was not arrested, but two other people were in connection with the search, which happened at the home in the 600 block of West 115th Street, police said. Two weapons also were found. "The officer has been relieved of her powers and an internal investigation is being conducted by [the police Internal Affairs Division]," said police spokesman Roderick Drew.

Alert issued on N. Side

Police were looking for a man who knocked a woman to the ground and tried to sexually assault her on the North Side, according to a community alert issued Thursday. A 25-year-old woman was walking eastbound on the 2300 block of West Rosemont Avenue at about 1:45 a.m. Sunday when a man walking westbound struck her in face and knocked her to the ground, police said. Anyone with information should call police at 312-744-8261.



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**1 Mee-yowza!**

Hello Kitty is cute, but Super Hello Kitty is extravagant. The jewel-encrusted doll, on display at the Baselworld watch and jewelry show in Basel, Switzerland, celebrates the famous cat's 35th anniversary and is decorated with a diamond, 1,939 white topazes, 403 pink sapphires and thousands of pearls. **GETTY IMAGES**

U.S. owning war

The U.S. is taking unabashed ownership of the Afghan war. American diplomats and development experts plan to spread into relatively peaceful western and northern regions that until now were left to other NATO governments.

2 No smell, no job

Police officers who lose their sense of smell also risk losing their jobs, a Pennsylvania appeals court ruled Thursday in Harrisburg. Officers must be able to detect drugs, alcohol, hazardous materials, natural gas and other substances, a panel ruled.

3 Cash for next disaster

Exasperated by the escalating cost of fighting major wildfires, the House on Thursday overwhelmingly approved a bill to help pay for the next disaster. The bill would create a separate fund to cover the costs. The bill now goes to the Senate.

4 Gay marriage vote

The New Hampshire House has voted to make the state the third one to allow gays to marry. The chamber voted Thursday in Concord 186-179 to send a gay marriage bill to the Senate, where its future is uncertain.

5 Baghdad bombing

A car bomb exploded Thursday along a bustling commercial street in a mostly Shiite area of north Baghdad, killing at least 20 people in the third major attack in the capital this month.

6 So cheese-y

A heavyweight study of the future of soft cheese has won Britain's annual competition to find the year's oddest book title. "The 2009-2014 World Outlook for 60-milligram Containers of Fromage Frais," by Philip M. Parker won the Diagram Prize, awarded Friday by trade magazine The Bookseller.

Obama holds town hall event over Internet

7 WASHINGTON In an echo of his campaign, President Obama tackled questions on education, jobs, autos—even whether legalizing marijuana could jolt the economy—at a first-of-its-kind Internet-era town hall meeting at the White House on Thursday.

Obama said the precedent-setting online town-hall meeting was an “an important step” toward creating a broader avenue for information about his administration. The event allowed him to speak directly to Americans through the Web,

TOPICS

The president addressed a wide range of topics, including:

- » Unemployment
- » The home financing crisis
- » Education

bypassing the filter of the news media.

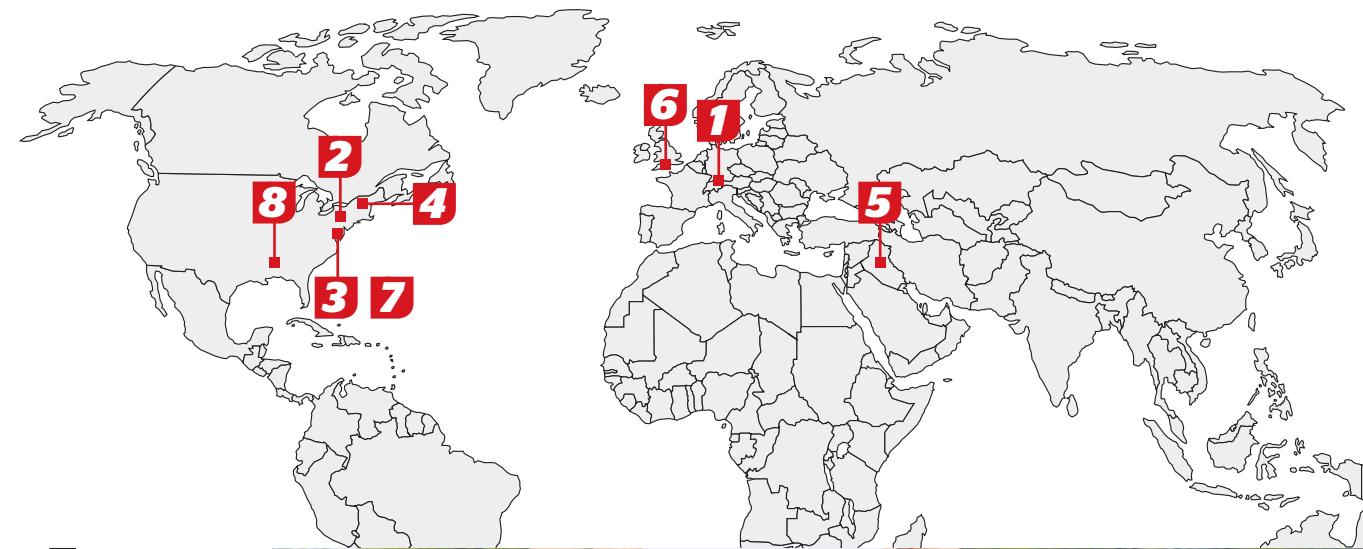
The president took the questions most asked from a pool of more than 100,000 sent to the White House Web site by 9 a.m., as well as from the audience that was on hand for the event. Some cable TV networks carried the event live.

After a brief opening statement, Obama held a microphone and walked the floor in the ornate East Room, gesturing as he answered questions in an event reminiscent of town hall meetings he conducted in person across the nation during his campaign.

The one small bit of news was word that Obama will soon announce his plan for the U.S. auto industry.

FUNNY, MR. PRESIDENT

Obama joked at one point about the most popular question from his online audience—whether he favored legalizing marijuana and could that turn around the economy. “I don’t know what this says about the online audience,” he said with a smile, adding that he opposed legalizing the illicit drug.



Furious weather

8 MAGEE, Miss. Severe weather across the South unleashed tornadoes in rural Mississippi, including one that shattered dozens of homes, flattened a church and injured at least 17 people, authorities in Magee said Thursday. There were no immediate reports of fatalities, Magee Mayor Jimmy Clyde said.



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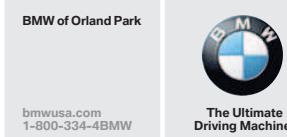


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Chicago Tribune
IT'S A WHOLE NEW DAY



sports



AP FILE

Only a Zamboni

When the NHL sent two Zambonis to Wrigley Field for the Winter Classic in December, the brakes on one of the machines locked as it was being unloaded and it tumbled off the back of the delivery truck (above).

The driver escaped unscathed, but the incident prompted one columnist to quip: "If the guy had been injured, the newspaper headlines the next day would have been 'Zamboni damaged beyond repair.' " Such is the appreciation of the hulking yet nimble ice polisher.

RedEye shares a few more fun tidbits about the iconic machine. MCT, TRIBUNE CONTRIBUTED.

» Say what? Some Blackhawks fans have elevated Kris Versteeg to Chuck Norris-like status, leading to this humorous post about the rookie on a team message board: "Some say his breakfast cereal contains only pucks and milk and that his parents conceived him in the back of a Zamboni."

» Ever heard of the Gear Daddies? That's the band behind the whimsical song "I Wanna Drive the Zamboni," a between-periods staple at many hockey rinks. Sample lyrics: "Now the manager said, 'Son, I know it looks keen / But that right there is one expensive machine / And I've got Smokey who's been driving for years.' / About that time I broke down in tears."

» It's not drunken driving in New Jersey if it involves a Zamboni. In 2007, a judge ruled the machines aren't motor vehicles because they aren't useable on highways and can't carry passengers. The case came about when a Zamboni operator was charged after a fellow employee told police the machine was speeding and nearly crashed into the boards. Police said the driver's blood-alcohol level was 0.12 percent, over the 0.08 legal limit.

» In the old comic strip "Peanuts," Woodstock clears ice on his birdbath with a Zamboni. "There are three things in life that people like to stare at," Charlie Brown once observed in the nation's newspapers. "A flowing stream, a crackling fire and a Zamboni clearing the ice."



CHICAGO BLACKHAWKS

Ahearn

Bad to the

As the iconic rig turns 60, meet the men who rule the rinks

RedEye

For some daydreamers, a joy ride on a Zamboni ranks on the bucket list somewhere between climbing Mt. Fuji and appearing on "The Price is Right."

For John Golde and Dan Ahearn, piloting the mighty ice-resurfacing machine is just a way to earn a buck between periods of hockey games.

"We all laugh we can turn right pretty good," Golde, who clears the ice during Wolves games at Allstate Arena, told RedEye recently.

This is kind of an exciting time for the Zamboni—it turns 60 this year—so RedEye talked with Chicago-area drivers about the challenges of operating the rig, the perks of the job and the public's fascination with the machine.

DAN AHEARN

Team: Blackhawks
Home Ice: United Center
Experience: 39 years (29 at United Center and Chicago Stadium)

Why are people fascinated by the Zamboni?

Watching what it does. ... Trying to figure out what it does.

How long would it take the average person to learn how to drive a Zamboni?

Driving them with an operator who knows what he's doing, you could be driving in probably about 5 or 6 hours' time. ... It's just like driving any other piece of equipment: You can drive it, but if you don't understand how it operates, you're not going to be a very good driver.

What would hockey be like if we didn't have the Zamboni?

They'd still be playing two halves because it used to take like 45 minutes to do the ice back in the old days.

What kind of response do you get when people find out what you do for a living?

Everybody wants tickets. ... About 10 years ago, I was going to buy my new truck and they said, "Do you get tickets for free?" And I said, "Are you going to give me a truck for free?"

How did that work out for you?

It didn't work out too good. I had to pay for my truck. I've got to buy tickets just like everybody else does.



ROSS DETTMAN/CHICAGO WOLVES

Zamboni

JOHN GOLDE

Team: Wolves
Home Ice: Allstate Arena
Experience: 27 years (15 at Allstate)

When you're at parties, do you always end up talking about Zambonis?

It depends on the situation. If you're at a party for a wedding, you try not to make that the centerpiece of it. People ask all kinds of questions.

"How do you drive?" "How did you get started?" "What have you seen?" All that stuff.

But if you're there for a wedding, it's not about you, it's about the person getting married.

Well, it is the 60th anniversary of the Zamboni. You can let it be about you a little bit, right?

No!



The Hanson Brothers have been known to participate in Zamboni stunts at Wolves games.

Is this a full-time job?

I actually work for Allstate Insurance as an auto adjuster.

And you work at Allstate Arena. Is that a coincidence?

Yes, very coincidental!

What's your favorite Zamboni memory?

We had the Hanson Brothers [from the 1977 hockey comedy "Slap Shot"] there a couple times. They crawled in the tank and we dumped them out at center ice. They were water skiing behind [the Zamboni]. They had the rope, and we were towing them around the rink. Those guys were fun to talk to.

What's the toughest part of driving a Zamboni?

Not being able to see on the right side. You've got that big tank in front of you, so you've got to see 5 to 10 feet out in front of you. ... [Also] making sure we don't hit the people who are out there ice skating. You know how they have their intermission show? You don't want to be on ESPN running over the mascot. That wouldn't look good.

How will Bears screw this one up?

Get him. Sign him, buy him, trade for him—just get him.

You know who I mean. We're talking Jay Cutler. For those of you unfamiliar, he is what's known as a "legitimate quarterback," which differs from the schleps we've had around here.

The bad news is that Bears General Manager Jerry Angelo reportedly is doing his "due diligence." This is bad news because this usually translates into "I'm going to keep digging and digging until I find an excuse not to trade for this guy, but we'll look like we're trying."

Upside: Cutler grew up a Bears fan, and the Bears are one of a couple of teams he would prefer to go to. Of course, Rex Grossman and Rick Mirer grew up Bears fans, but who cares?

This is bad news for Kyle Orton, but let's face facts: Cutler is a first-round, Pro Bowl QB. Orton is a fourth-rounder and could best be described as "serviceable."

Now it goes without saying there's competition for Cutler—there are like 10 teams that want him. One of those is the Jets, which smells bad because New York teams seem to always get their man.

Look, if we get Cutler, we're fine. We already signed tackle Kevin Shaffer out of Cleveland, so that leaves us with just a big-time receiver and we're there.

Of course, the defense still stinks, but at least we'll be exciting.

The Cubs may be exciting too, but I have my worries. They include, in no particular order, Kosuke Fukudome and the fact he hasn't hit a ball cleanly in about a year; Rich Harden and his fragile shoulder; and Alfonso Soriano's legs, which may need more care than those of a ballerina. And as great as Milton Bradley is, the guy is about as frail as ... Soriano.

Cubs GM Jim Hendry actually said they're hopeful Bradley plays 130 to 135 games. Wow. That's like saying, "Hey, if we get 70 percent out of this guy, we're elated!" Well, this is Chicago, so maybe we should be. **BAG BOY IS A REDEYE SPECIAL CONTRIBUTOR.**





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On the Marc

White Sox and Blackhawks fan Marc Connally joins the panel today. What, Marc, no love for the Bears?



TOPIC	JIMMY GREENFIELD jgreenfield@tribune.com	TRACY SWARTZ tswartz@tribune.com	SUPRIYA DOSHI sdoshi@tribune.com	THAT GUY redeyesports@tribune.com	MARC CONNELLY redeyesports@tribune.com
1 What will be the deciding factor in today's Cubs-White Sox game?	Team playing the highest uniform number loses.	The new Cubs owner. He made it rain, but will it end the Cubs' drought?	The quality of Jimmy's prayers to the Cubs god.	Yo! That Guy needs a J-O-B. I bring a solid work ethic and make for office eye candy.	Ummm ... the score?
2 Gilbert Arenas says he has "retired" from blogging. Will it last?	Bloggers never die. They just hit the fadeaway.	"Zero" chance. He's nothing but Net.	From "Zero" to hero? Doubt it.	Check me out at www.linkedin.com/in/kmleland . I'm wearing a pink shirt. How hot is that? Down girl, down.	He's too key to the blogosphere and not the quitter type. He'll regain his stroke.
3 The Bulls will play an exhibition game in London next year. Where else should they go?	Wherever it is, please don't televise it.	France. Everything's foul there.	Someplace without a basketball team—so they can feel like winners.	References available upon request, but please refrain from contacting ex-girlfriends or former employers.	France and then Tracy's place, since they've already seen London.
4 How would you improve upon the Zamboni?	I'd build a female version.	Use the Sanborni to resurface Chicago streets. I'm over the moon.	It should be able to smooth out Chicago's potholes as well as it smooths over ice.	Is this in regards to a job opportunity? I would give it rims and cruise down Rush. Hire me!	Make little Shriner Zambonis and have about a dozen of them weaving drunkenly around the ice.
5 The Fire is in D.C. on Saturday. Should President Obama attend the game?	Only if he feels his exciting life needs a little boredom.	Nope, the game isn't special.	Yes—and hopefully the Fire play better than the Bulls did in D.C. so Obama doesn't have to leave early again.	Did I mention I can touch my tongue to my nose? It's pretty sweet. And I can juggle!	If you're looking to punish someone, send Geithner.

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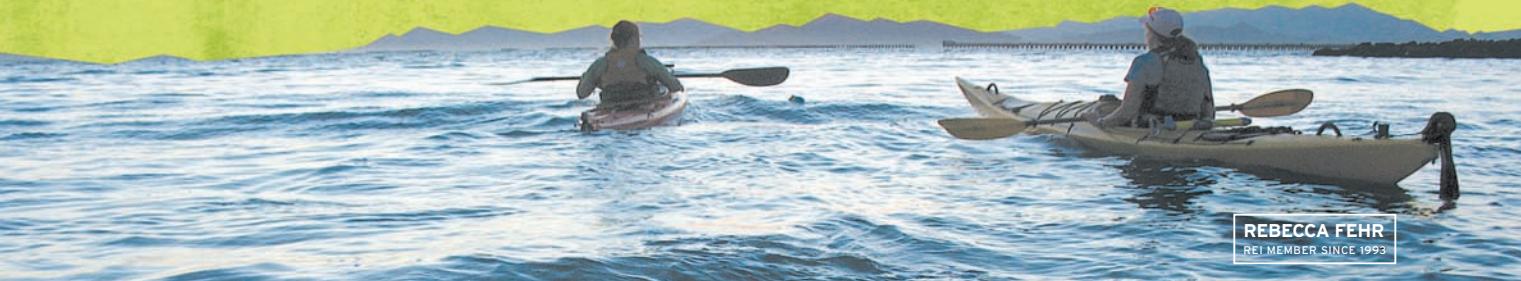
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UConn hard boils Purdue

Connecticut hardly needed Hasheem Thabeet as it romped through the first two rounds of the NCAA Tournament.

That all changed against a gritty Purdue team. The Boilermakers seemed to have an answer for everything the Huskies threw at them—except for the 7-foot-3 Thabeet.

Thabeet, the Big East co-player of the year, scored 15 points, had 15 rebounds and blocked four shots, and top-seeded Connecticut overcame a sluggish first half to defeat Purdue 72-60 in the NCAA West Regional semifinals on Thursday.

"Hasheem just took the game over," UConn coach Jim Calhoun said. "Purdue, quite frankly, ran into one of the best players in America in Hasheem Thabeet. Beyond that, the game might have been different if we had just, quote, a regular center."

Purdue ended its longest NCAA run since 2000, when the Boilermakers lost to Wisconsin in the West Region final.

THURSDAY'S RESULTS

- » Connecticut 72, Purdue 60
- » Pittsburgh 60, Xavier 55
- » Villanova 77, Duke 54
- » Missouri 102, Memphis 91

FRIDAY'S GAMES

- » Oklahoma (29-5) vs. Syracuse (28-9), 6:27 p.m.
- » North Carolina (30-4) vs. Gonzaga (28-5), after conclusion of first game
- » Louisville (30-5) vs. Arizona (21-13), 6:07 p.m.
- » Michigan State (28-6) vs. Kansas (27-7), after conclusion of first game

"We did accomplish a lot this season," said Robbie Hummel, who led Purdue with 17 points. "We've been in the Sweet 16 now. We're going to be hungry to make it farther next year."

HOMETOWN HITS



**Bulls 106,
Miami 87**

John
Salmons

scored 27 points, and the Bulls beat Dwyane Wade and the Miami Heat 106-87 on Thursday for their sixth win in seven games. Derrick Rose, playing with a sore wrist, had nine points and seven assists off the bench.



Quoted

"I would look at Michael like I look at every other prospect that's available:

He goes back into the pool. That's what everyone in society does. Martha Stewart went to prison. She paid her time. Now she's back in society. Mike made a mistake, and he's paying the price for that mistake. Once you've paid your debt to society, you have to say, 'OK, let's go on from there.'" —Bears head coach **Lovie Smith** to USA Today about Michael Vick

ONE-LINERS

- » With an apology to Congress, baseball and the kids who looked up to him, All-Star shortstop Miguel Tejada received a sentence of one year's probation Thursday for misleading Congress about the use of performance-enhancing drugs.
- » The Illinois Institute of Technology shut down its men's and women's basketball programs Thursday.

THURSDAY'S RESULTS

» Diamondbacks 3, White Sox 1 » Cubs vs. San Francisco, late

It was great to see Bartolo Colon pitch so well for the White Sox this week. Keep it up, my man—only six more months to the postseason. Here now, my TV picks.



**MLB
Cubs
vs. White Sox**

3 p.m. WGN

I'll be disappointed if a batter isn't plunked.



**NHL
Blackhawks
vs. New Jersey**

7:30 p.m. CSN

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2005 SUZUKI GRAND VITARA EX 4WD Stk. #FS7723	\$11,950*
2004 DODGE DURANGO ST 4WD Stk. #28256	\$11,950*
2005 FORD ESCAPE XLT AWD Stk. #FS7773	\$12,550*
2004 CADILLAC SRX Stk. #FS7785	\$13,450*
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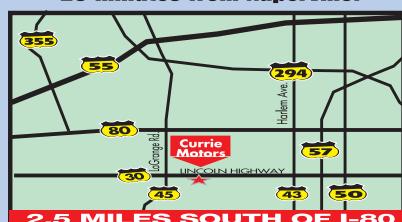
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metromix



POWER ON

Give your green side a workout, do a fashionably good deed and raise rock-show hell



FILE FOR METROMIX

PICK OF THE WEEK

weekend best bets

By Beth Geraci
METROMIX@TRIBUNE.COM

Between Boutique Cafe & Lounge (1324 N. Milwaukee Ave.) for a special veggie spring roll (\$8) made without the use of electricity or sip themed \$10 cocktails by candlelight, such as the fruity Lights Out at **C-View** (166 E. Superior St.). At **Ben Pao** (52 W. Illinois St.), a \$30 organic prix-fixe dinner features soy-glazed salmon and lemon-ginger martinis. For more Earth Hour options, see metromix.com

Down to Earth

Getting left in the dark isn't so bad when you're doing it for **Earth Hour**. The World Wildlife Fund's global initiative against climate change has enticed several local bars and restaurants to turn off their lights from 8:30-9:30 p.m. Saturday and offer eco-friendly specials. Hit up

PARTY PICKS

Rock on

Chicago wine guru Alpana Singh trades riesling for rock at **Battle Royale '09**, a four-band faceoff featuring local groups Project Ultra, Empra, Kinzie Rapport and Everelle, who vie for \$500 (Singh chooses the winner). Wear an obnoxious T-shirt for a chance to win a \$100 Graham Elliott dining certificate and other prizes. Includes beer, cocktails and hot dogs. DJ Madrid spins between acts. 9 p.m. Saturday. \$49. Revel Post Office, 1402 N. Western Ave. 773-410-0220. Purchase required by 7 p.m. Friday: battleroyale.eventbrite.com

Tapas this

Small plates get big love at the sixth annual **Cocina de Coprodeli**, where Emilio Gervilla (Emilio's Tapas), Tanya Baker (Sangria), Jason Mousseau (SushiSamba Rio) and five other local chefs serve up samples of ceviche, lamb empanadas, vegetarian paella and other tapas. Includes live Andean music by Huguito Gutierrez, plus wine, pisco sours and domestic bottles. 1 p.m. Sunday. \$75. Proceeds benefit Coprodeli USA. Kendall College, 900 N. North Branch St. 312-798-2391.

Bear with it

Being charitable never goes out of style, especially at a benefit bash like this: **UnBEARably Unique** raises funds for Bear Necessities Pediatric Cancer Foundation while showcasing spring looks from local designers Serpico, Lara Miller and Elise Bergman. Also includes appetizers, cocktails, a raffle and gift bags. 7 p.m. Friday. \$20-\$25. Le Passage, 937 N. Rush St. 312-214-1200. Tickets: [www.bearnecessities.org](http://bearnecessities.org)



BEST OF THE REST

Sexed up

When it comes to day-of-week sex appeal, Friday nights get our vote. But a group of local writers are adding some spice to an unlikely candidate with their **Sunday Night Sex Show**. See what all the fuss is about as Rachel Collins, Byron Flitsch, Dakota Sexton and other scribes read humorous stories about bad dates, one-night stands and other true tales. Between sets, hosts Allen Makere and Robyn Pennacchia answer love queries and host sex-themed trivia. You could even win a raunchy prize. How's that for appeal? 7:30 p.m. No cover. The Burlington, 3425 W. Fullerton Ave. 773-384-3243.



Let's go to bed

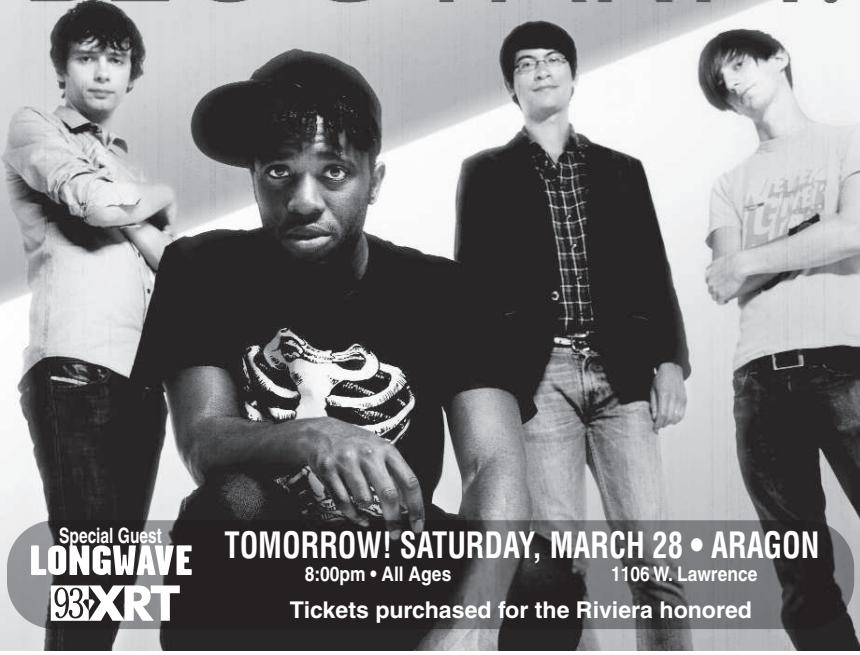
The Brothers Grimm gets a Boystown reception at **Bedtime Stories**, a benefit for campy theater company MidTangent Productions' upcoming musical comedy "Snow White and the Seven Drag Queens" (opening April 17 at Hydrate). Belly up to an open bar (9-10:30 p.m.) and see a preview of the show by the "Snow White" cast. The evening also features a silent auction and a raffle for an iPod, gift certificates and more. 9 p.m. Friday. \$10. Hydrate, 3458 N. Halsted St. 773-835-0420.

Another kind of madness

Whether or not you know an air ball from an alley-oop, spotting a good deal is a no-brainer. Score to win, ladies, at the **Division Street March Madness Sale**, where six Wicker Park boutiques, including Le Dress, Anjenu and Ouest, offer up to 90 percent discounts on ladies' winter and spring apparel, accessories and stationery. 11 a.m. Saturday and Sunday. Prices vary. Division Street between Hermitage Avenue and Wood Street. 773-697-9899.

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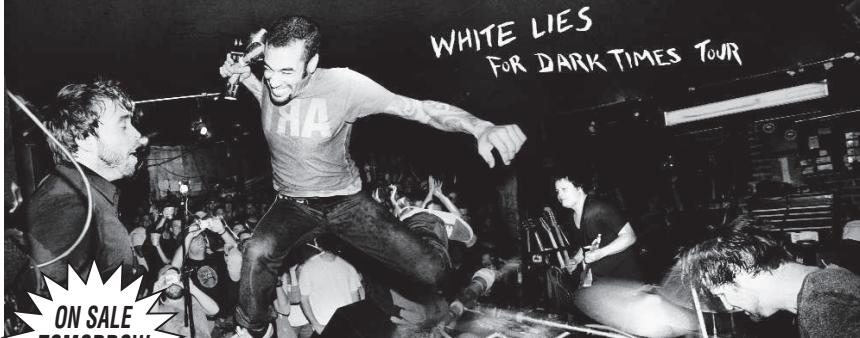
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Chicago Tribune

Metromix's top March Madness deals

JAKE MELNICK'S CORNER TAP

\$9.99 Miller Lite pint and March Madness burger (a bacon cheeseburger with a fried egg served on two grilled cheese sandwiches). Wear participating-team gear to get a \$5 drink voucher; 41 E. Superior St. 312-266-0400.

THE FIFTY/50

\$3 Coors Light bottles, \$6 Dick Vitale-ity cocktails (orange juice, Jose Cuervo Gold and Grand Marnier), \$10 oysters on the half shell (six), \$10 shrimp cocktails and more. No cover; 2047 W. Division St. 773-489-5050.

BULL & BEAR

Half-price appetizers and mini-sandwich trios 3-7

ATLANTIC BAR & GRILL

\$4 Shiner Bock drafts, \$5 Bacardi O bombs and Bazooka Joe bombs, \$10 all-you-can-eat fish fry; 5062 N. Lincoln Ave. 773-506-7090.

BRIDGET MCNEILL'S

\$2 select domestic beers, \$3 nachos, \$5 select bombs; 420 W. Belmont Ave. 773-248-6654.

CASEY MORAN'S

\$1 burgers, \$3 Heineken bottles, \$5 Red Bull vodkas, \$5 bomb shots; 3660 N. Clark St. 773-755-4444.

CELTIC CROWN

\$7 Miller Lite pitchers; 4301 N. Western Ave. 773-588-110.

CLIMAX LOUNGE

9 p.m.: The Party. A weekly dance party features DJ sets and a different theme each week. Also, sing karaoke while you wait in line for the restroom. Themes include planets, spring cleaning and 3-D. No cover. RSVP required: [www.maxwellandcarter.com](http://maxwellandcarter.com); 326 W. Chicago Ave. 312-280-9800.

CRIMSON LOUNGE

9 p.m.: DJ Rock City spins. No cover; 333 N. Dearborn St. Hotel Sax. 312-923-2453.

p.m.; 431 N. Wells St. 312-527-5973.

HARRY CARAY'S TAVERN

\$3.50 Miller Lite drafts, \$5 bombs and Stoli cocktails; 3551 N. Sheffield Ave. 773-327-7800.

KROLL'S SOUTH LOOP

\$4 Captain Morgan 100, Bushmills and Jose Cuervo Silver shots and \$5 20-ounce Miller Lite drafts. Weekly giveaway prizes include a \$100 gift certificate and a Sony PlayStation. No cover; 1736 S. Michigan Ave. 312-235-1400.

WESTEND BAR & GRILL

\$4 Miller Lite stadium cups, \$15 Miller buckets, \$5 wings and mini-burgers; 1326 W. Madison St. 312-981-7100.



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SAT, APRIL 4TH

Too White Crew



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9:30 p.m. Cover varies.
The Velvet Lounge, 67 E. Cermak Rd. 312-791-9050.

ARCHER PREWITT, BIG SCIENCE BAND, JAMES ELKINGTON
10 p.m. \$10. Empty Bottle, 1035 N. Western Ave. 773-276-3600.

AVA LOGAN QUARTET
9 p.m. \$15. Pops for Champagne, 601 N. State St. 312-266-7677.

BRIANNA LANE, CAHALEN DAVID MORRISON
10 p.m. \$10 suggested donation. Uncommon Ground on Devon, 1401 W. Devon Ave. 773-465-9801.

THE DEFIBULATORS, JEFF FRELING'S ROCK SQUAD, I FIGHT DRAGONS
10 p.m. \$8. Martyrs', 3855 N. Lincoln Ave. 773-404-9869.

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FRI. JULY 17 - First Midwest Bank

DEF LEPPARD
Poison, Cheap Trick

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SAT. MAY 9 - Allstate arena

FALL OUT BOY
Cobra Starship, All Time Low, Metro Station, Hey Monday

SAT. MAY 16 - Charter One Pavilion at NORTHERLY ISLAND

DISTURBED
Killswitch Engage, Lacuna Coil, Chimaira

Q101

SAT. JULY 18 - Wrigley Field

RASCAL FLATTS
Vince Gill, Darius Rucker

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SAT. MAY 16 - Charter One Pavilion at NORTHERLY ISLAND

DISTURBED
Killswitch Engage, Lacuna Coil, Chimaira

Q101

SAT. MAY 29 - Charter One Pavilion at NORTHERLY ISLAND

NINE INCH NAILS
Street Sweeper

Q101

JULY 18 & 19 - Alpine Valley Music Theatre

DAVE MATTHEWS BAND
Umphrey's McGee

SAT. JULY 25 - Alpine Valley Music Theatre

COLDPLAY
Elbow, Kitty Daisy & Lewis

JULY 22 - First Midwest Bank

CRUEFEST
Mötley Crüe, Godsmack, Theory of a Deadman, Drowning Pool, Charm City Devils

LOOP 97.9

FRI. AUG. 21 - First Midwest Bank

NICKELBACK
Hinder, Papa Roach, Saving Abel

SAT. SEPT. 26 - First Midwest Bank

DAVE MATTHEWS BAND
Willie Nelson & Family

JUNE 15 - SKYLINE STAGE

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WWVA 95.5 JAZZ SERIES

FRI. JULY 10 - Charter One Pavilion at NORTHERLY ISLAND

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.38 Special

LOOP 97.9

JUNE 28 - First Midwest Bank

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AVA LOGAN QUARTET

9 p.m. \$15. Pops for Champagne, 601 N. State St. 312-266-7677.

**BABY TEETH,
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LE CONCORDE**

8 p.m. \$10. Bottom Lounge, 1375 W. Lake St. 312-666-6775.

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5 p.m. \$35. Congress Theatre, 2135 N. Milwaukee Ave. 888-512-7469.

**BLOC PARTY,
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8 p.m. \$28.50. Aragon Ballroom, 1106 W. Lawrence Ave. 312-559-1212.

**BONGRIPPER,
BLACK SEPTEMBER,
WINTERS IN OSAKA,
RABID RABBIT**

9 p.m. \$7. Ronny's, 2101 N. California Ave. mpshows.com

BRET MICHAELS

10:30 p.m. \$35. Joe's, 940 W. Weed St. 312-337-3486.

**BRIAN JONESTOWN
MASSACRE, THE
FLAVOR CRYSTALS**

9 p.m. \$17-\$20. Metro, 3730 N. Clark St. 773-549-0203.

**CHRIS TOMLIN,
ISRAEL HOUGHTON
AND NEW BREED**

7 p.m. \$28. The Sears Centre, 5333 Prairie Stone Pkwy., Hoffman Estates. 847-649-2270.

**COBRA SKULLS,
THE HALLOW,
COUNTERPUNCH,
SHE LIKES TODD**

6:30 p.m. \$8-\$10. Beat Kitchen, 2100 W. Belmont Ave. housecallent.com

**COMASOFT,
FEMME FATALITY,
PAR AVION**

6 p.m. \$7-\$10. Subterranean, 2011 W. North Ave. housecallent.com

**DAVID CASSIDY,
DAVY JONES**

8 p.m. \$37.50-\$75. Rosemont Theatre, 5400 N. River Rd., Rosemont. 312-559-1212.



**DIAMOND JIM
GREENE**

7 p.m. Free. House of Blues, Back Porch Stage, 329 N. Dearborn St. 312-923-2007.

ENTER THE HAGGIS

9 p.m. \$12-\$15. FitzGerald's, 6615 Roosevelt Rd., Berwyn. 708-788-2118.

**ETHAN KELLER,
BRUCE HOMES**

9 p.m. Tips/donations. Uncommon Ground on Clark, 3800 N. Clark St. 773-929-3680.

THE FAB FAUX

7:30 p.m. \$59. Park West, 322 W. Armitage Ave. 312-559-1212.

**FRESH HOPS,
THE SWEEPS,
ARLO PEAR**

10:15 p.m. \$7. Subterranean, 2011 W. North Ave. housecallent.com

**FRUIT BATS,
DISAPPEARS**

10:30 p.m. \$12. Schubas, 3159 N. Southport Ave. 773-525-2508.

**THE FUZ, COVERT
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NORMAN**

8:30 p.m. \$10. Elbo Room, 2871 N. Lincoln Ave. 773-549-5549.

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**JOSH HOGE,
CURTIS PEOPLES,
ERNIE HALTER**

8 p.m. \$10-\$15. SPACE, 1245 Chicago Ave., Evanston. 847-492-8860.

**LAS GUITARRAS
DE ESPANA**

9:30 p.m. \$15 suggested donation. Uncommon Ground on Devon, 1401 W. Devon Ave. 773-465-9801.

**MAURICE BROWN
QUINTET**

4, 8 and 10 p.m. Cover varies. Jazz Showcase, 806 S. Plymouth Ct. 312-360-0234.

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9:30 p.m. \$5-\$15 suggested donation. Elastic, 2830 N. Milwaukee Ave. 773-489-3160.

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ADAM FITZ**

10:30 p.m. \$10. Beat Kitchen, 2100 W. Belmont Ave. housecallent.com

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THE CHECKMATES**

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»» page 26

Sunday

BALLISTIC EDNA, THE BIG GIGANTIC, BARE THE BELL
9 p.m. \$7. Ronny's, 2101 N. California Ave. mpshows.com

BLUEBLOOD, THE PACK A.D., NONES
9:30 p.m. \$3. Empty Bottle, 1035 N. Western Ave. 773-276-3600.

BOB MOULD
7:30 p.m. \$24-\$28. Old Town School of Folk Music, 4544 N. Lincoln Ave. 773-728-6000.

DAVID PAIGE, SIDEWALK CHALK, THE 409'S, THE COMPANY, FLY PHOENIX, CLAIRE STAHLCKER
7 p.m. \$5-\$8. Reggie's Rock Club, 2109 S. State St. 312-949-0120.

DEMPSSTER ST. PRO MUSICA
4 p.m. \$24. SPACE, 1245 Chicago Ave., Evanston. 847-492-8860.

THE ENGLISH CONCERT

3 p.m. \$30-\$110. Harris Theater for Music and Dance in Millennium Park, 205 E. Randolph Drive. 312-334-7777.

THE GAME

7:30 p.m. \$26.50-\$28. House of Blues, 329 N. Dearborn St. 312-923-2000.

JEANIE B

Noon. \$5. Beat Kitchen, 2100 W. Belmont Ave. housecallent.com

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9 p.m. \$10. Schubas, 3159 N. Southport Ave. 773-525-2508.

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7 p.m. \$6. darkroom, 2210 W. Chicago Ave. 773-276-1411.

THE MASSACRES, AL AND THE BLACK CATS, THE ARKHAMAS, CURTAINS,

WRECKIN' BALL, THE HOWLIN TUMBLEWEEDS, NUKE MUTES, THE DYES
6 p.m. \$10. Bottom Lounge, 1375 W. Lake St. 312-666-6775.

MATTHEW SKOLLER

8 p.m. \$7-\$10. House of Blues, Back Porch Stage, 329 N. Dearborn St. 312-923-2007.

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8 p.m. \$25. Martyr's, 3855 N. Lincoln Ave. 312-559-1212.

SIG TRANSIT GLORIA, LASERS AND FAST AND S*, SILENT SCONES**

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Jessica Lea Mayfield, Tuesday, May 26 (\$12, 18+) at Schubas.

The Meat Puppets, Saturday, May 30, Sunday, May 31 (\$16-\$18, 21+) at Schubas.

Mike Watt and the Missingmen, Thursday, May 14 (\$15, 21+) at Schubas.

On sale 10 a.m. Saturday

311, Ziggy Marley, Sunday, June 14 (\$45.50, all ages) at Northerly Island's Charter One Pavilion.

The Enemy, Friday, June 26 (\$15, 17+) at Subterranean.

UFO, Friday, Oct. 16 (\$39.50-\$41.50, 21+) at House of Blues.

Kate Voegele, Angel Taylor, Friday, May 1 (\$15, all ages) at Park West.

On sale noon Saturday

Ben Harper and Relentless7, Saturday, May 16 (\$35, 18+) at Vic Theatre.

Chicago, Earth, Wind and Fire, Tuesday, June 30 (\$20-\$48, all ages) at Marcus Amphitheater, Milwaukee.

Bob Schneider, Jason Shannon, Friday, June 12, Saturday, June 13 (\$20, 21+) at Double Door.

On sale 10 a.m. Monday

U2, Snow Patrol, Saturday, Sept. 12 (\$32-\$252, all ages) at Soldier Field.

On sale noon Monday

O'Jays, Russell Thompkins Jr. and the New Stylistics, Harold Melvin's Blue Notes, The Delfonics, Jerry Butler, The Jones Girls, The Intruders, Eddie Holman, Friday, July 24 (\$35-\$95, all ages) at Northerly Island's Charter One Pavilion.

On sale noon Tuesday

Lollapalooza, Friday, Aug. 7, Saturday, Aug. 8, Sunday, Aug. 9 (\$175, all ages) at Grant Park.



Kate Voegele

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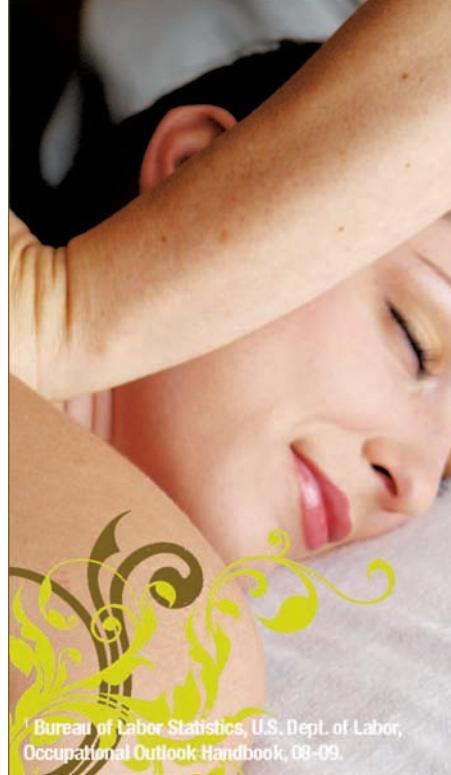
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Occupational Outlook Handbook, 08-09.

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Watch out! 'Monsters' star Rogen is taking over Hollywood

Chicago Tribune

Seth Rogen's acting and writing career is full-steam ahead.

The 26-year-old Canadian co-wrote the 2007 hit, "Superbad," with his still-BFF Evan Goldberg before they even started high school. They also wrote "Pineapple Express" and collaborated on "Da Ali G Show." Rogen has scored comedy hits as an actor in "Knocked Up" and "Zack and Miri Make a Porno."

In the animated "Monsters vs. Aliens," opening Friday, he plays B.O.B., a big blue blob formed when scientists tried to combine a genetically altered tomato with a ranch-flavored dessert topping. And on April 10, he stars in "Observe and Report."

The funny man is not slowing down.

We caught up with Rogen at the South by Southwest Film Conference in Austin, Texas, where he was promoting "Observe and Report"—and consuming mass quantities of barbecue.

"Monsters vs. Aliens" is a funny film, but your character, B.O.B., gets most of the laughs because he's so ditzy. Are you naturally ditzy?
I have my moments, but I would definitely say no. I'm generally pretty aware of my situations.

Your first acting gig was on Judd Apatow's cult TV hit "Freaks and Geeks." Back then, did you ever think that 10 years later, you would be on the silver screen portraying a giant blob?
I did, actually, and I'm happy it ended up being an animated one instead of a live one.

Your role in "Monsters vs. Aliens" is your fifth animated role. Have you been seeking out this kind of work or does it just fall into your lap?
I do like these [animated] movies. That's why I originally started pursuing it. And then, it just kind of happens. It's all been

Blue streak

on a very movie-by-movie basis. I never sat down and said, "I'm gonna do a [bleep]-ton of animation movies!" It's really just that one after the other came along.

You're probably used to it by now, but think back to the first time you saw your voice attached to an animated character. Was it weird?

Um, yes. It really is weird. That's kind of the only reason I did it in the first place. And it is still weird; it doesn't get any less weird.

For animated films, how much time do you actually spend "acting"—recording your voice?

I'd say a total of around, oh, 40 hours ... spread out over two years.

Are you aware that the "Monsters vs. Aliens" marketing team is passing out blue slime at its screenings, which is meant to represent your character?

No! That's perfect; that's great. Now everyone has a piece of my slime. And it's a kids' movie, nonetheless.

How does all this attention feel?

When I look around, I look at the comedies that are coming out over the next few months, and I've known almost everyone involved for the past 10 years. It's really

weird, but it's cool. It's hard not to be aware of. It's become pretty clear that the guys I started out with have moved to the forefront of people making movies.

Do you recall the approximate time period when you thought to yourself, "I've made it," or has it been a steady build?

I've been like that for years now. [laughs] I felt that way pretty much as soon as I had my own apartment.

Your talent is all over the place: film and TV acting, voiceovers, writing for both TV and movies. Do you have a preference in terms of what you prefer to work on?

I don't know, it's all fun. I like mixing it up, I gotta say, but writing movies to me is the most enjoyable aspect of my job, I guess. It's kind of what we started out doing—the first thing that we had an instinct to try—and I think it's what we're best at. We think best in terms of movies, and writing is probably my strongest suit, and I just love it.

When you say "we," are you referring to your multiple personalities? Or someone specific?

No—me and my writing partner, Evan Goldberg. [laughs] It's the royal we! I'm Canadian.

SETH ROGEN
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REESE WITHERSPOON
Susan, who transforms into Ginormica



PAUL RUDD
Weatherman and Susan's fiance, Derek Dietl



SCREAM TEAM

"Monsters vs. Aliens," the latest 3-D film to come out of Hollywood, has attracted an all-star cast to do voiceover work. Here's a look at the actors and their characters. **REDEYE**

MORE 'MONSTERS' INSIDE

- » REESE WITHERSPOON IS HUGE! **Page 37**
 - » "MONSTERS" PAYS HOMAGE TO OLD SCI-FI FLICKS **Page 37**
 - » STARS FROM "THE OFFICE" PUNCH IN ON "MONSTERS"
- Saturday's RedEye*



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Hard-boiled monster wrangler
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WILL ARNETT
Fish-ape hybrid Missing Link

RAINN WILSON
The alien Gallaxhar



» In Vanity Fair's April issue—wearing a nude body suit along with Jonah Hill, Paul Rudd and Jason Segel.



» On the April cover of Playboy.

ROGEN UNLEASHED

You won't actually see Seth Rogen in "Monsters vs. Aliens," in which he voices the one-eyed blob named B.O.B. But you can see the actor almost everywhere else. He's hitting his stride these days. **REDEYE**



- » Hosting "Saturday Night Live" on April 4.
- » Starring in "Observe and Report," the April 10 comedy in which he plays a heavily medicated mall cop looking to join the police force.
- » Starring opposite Adam Sandler in this year's "Funny People," a Judd Apatow comedy-drama in which he plays the assistant to a dying comedian (Sandler).
- » Starring in the big-screen adaptation of "The Green Hornet," set for 2010, which he is writing with his partner, Evan Goldberg.

THE OTHERS

As if that's not enough star power, the movie also boasts the voices of these actors:

- » Hugh Laurie
- » Stephen Colbert
- » Amy Poehler
- » Renée Zellweger
- » John Krasinski
- » Ed Helms
- » Jeffrey Tambor

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(PG-13)

'Haunting' just a lot of noise

Most people would balk at renting a dark, creaky house "with a history." Not Sara (Virginia Madsen), who plants her family in an eerie old place because it's near the hospital where her son Matt (Kyle Gallner) receives cancer treatment. Soon Matt's seeing visions of blood, bugs and dead people. Shocking!

The verdict: The lights flicker! The ghosts appear and disappear! The score is noisy! "Connecticut" couldn't be more repetitive if it included two takes of every scene. Yeah, supernatural goo emerging from someone's mouth mid-séance is distinctively weird. Otherwise, your 10 bucks are mostly going toward seeing junk performances, a laughable drunken outburst by Dad (Martin Donovan) and, uh, the snapping of some eyelids. Fun.

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- I Love You, Man (R) 2:30,5:15,8:00,10:50
- Duplicity (PG-13) 1:15,4:15,7:20,10:20
- Knowing (PG-13) 1:50,4:50,7:45,10:40
- Witch Mount (PG) 1:40,4:40,7:10,9:45
- Last House (R) 2:20,5:05
- Watchmen (R) 2:45,6:30,10:00

LANDMARK CENTURY CENTRE CINEMA (LANDMARK)2828 North Clark St., Chicago
(773) 509-4949

- Valentino (NR) 2:00,4:20,7:00,9:45
- Goodbye Solo (NR) 1:45,4:10,6:45,9:30
- Sunshine Clean (R) 1:50,3:00,4:30,5:30,7:30,8:45,10:10
- Slumdog Mill (R) 1:30,4:15,7:10,10:00
- The Class (PG-13) 3:10,6:30,9:45
- Two Lovers (R) 1:35,4:00,7:20,9:50

CITY NORTH 14 (KERASOTES)2600 N. Western Ave.
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- Haunting in CT (PG-13) 11:40,12:30,2:10,3:00,4:50,5:30,7:20,8:05,9:50,10:30
- Monsters vs. (PG) 10:30,12:10,1:00,2:30,3:30,5:00,6:05,7:30,10:00,9:45
- Monsters (PG) 11:00,1:30,1:30,2:00,4:00,4:30,6:30,7:00,9:00,9:30
- The Cross (PG) 11:10,1:50,4:20,6:40,9:10
- Knowing (PG-13) 10:00,12:40,3:20,6:20,9:20
- I Love You, Man (R) 11:20,12:20,2:30,3:10,5:10,6:15,7:45,9:15,10:20
- Duplicity (PG-13) 1:10,1:10,4:40,7:10,10:10
- Witch Mount (PG) 11:50,2:40,5:20,7:50,10:15
- Last House (R) 10:40,1:40,4:40,8:00,10:40
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- I Love You, Man (R) ★ 12:45,3:00,5:15,7:30,9:45
- Last House (R) 1:25,2:40,5:00,7:20,9:50
- Slumdog Mill (R) 12:20,2:45,5:10,7:30,10:00

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- 12 Rounds (PG-13) 10:50,1:30,4:20,7:05,9:50
- Haunting in CT (PG-13) 10:45,11:15,12:15,1:05,1:45,2:45,3:30,4:15,5:15,6:00,7:00,7:45,8:30,9:30,10:30
- I Love You, Man (R) 11:10,1:40,4:10,7:00,9:20
- Knowing (PG-13) 11:20,12:20,2:00,3:10,4:50,5:50,7:30,8:30,10:20
- Witch Mount (PG) 11:55,2:30,5:00,7:20,9:45
- Last House (R) 10:55,1:50,4:40,7:20,10:00
- Watchmen (R) 11:00,2:30,6:15,9:30
- Madea Goes (PG-13) 11:30,2:10,4:30,7:10,9:40

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- Séraphine (NR) 6:00

Late Spring (NR) 6:00

- Prater (NR) 8:15

Last Hom (NR) 8:30

LOGAN THEATRE2646 N. Milwaukee Ave., Chicago
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- Gran Torino (R) 2:00,4:05,6:15,8:25
- Coraline (PG) 2:00,4:10,6:15,8:20
- Slumdog Mill (R) 2:05,4:20,6:30,8:40
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- 12 (PG-13) 5:10,8:20
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PIPER'S ALLEY (AMC)1608 N. Wells, Chicago
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- Tokyo! (NR) 4:50 P.M.
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- Monsters vs. (PG) 11:15,12:15,1:15,2:45,4:55,15:5,15:6,45:7,45,9:30,10:30,12:00
- Haunting in CT (PG-13) 11:10,12:10,1:10,4:20,4:20,5:20,7:00,8:00,9:40,10:40,12:15
- Monsters (PG) ★ 10:15,12:45,3:15,5:45,8:30,11:00
- I Love You, Man (R) 10:15,11:00,12:00,1:00,1:45,2:45,3:45,4:30,5:30,6:30,7:15,8:30,9:10,10:15,11:20
- Knowing (PG-13) 10:05,11:05,1:05,2:05,4:10,5:10,7:20,8:20,10:30,11:30
- Witch Mount (PG) 10:00,12:30,3:00,5:30,8:00,10:25
- Last House (R) 11:25,2:10,5:05,7:50,10:45
- Watchmen (R) 11:10,12:10,2:50,3:50,6:25,7:25,10:00,11:00
- He's Just Not (PG-13) 10:25,4:05,9:45

CROWN VILLAGE 18 (KERASOTES)7000 Carpenter Rd., Skokie
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- Haunting in CT (PG-13) ★ 1:10,2:10,1:10,4:20,4:40,4:10,5:10,6:40,7:40,9:10,11:40
- Monsters vs. (PG) ★ 1:10,3:50,6:30,9:10
- Monsters (PG) ★ 1:10,11:30,11:00,12:01,2:01
- Monsters (PG) ★ 1:10,11:00,12:00,1:30,2:00,3:00,4:30,6:05,7:00,8:30,9:30,11:00
- The Cross (PG) ★ 1:20,2:20,5:50,20,7:50,10:15,12:55
- 12 Rounds (PG-13) ★ 1:10,2:10,4:10,4:45,7:20,9:55,12:45
- Knowing (PG-13) ★ 1:20,12:30,12:30,2:40,4:08,6:10,7:10,9:20,10:20,12:10
- I Love You, Man (R) ★ 12:40,1:45,3:10,4:15,5:40,7:15,8:20,9:50,11:10,12:30
- Duplicity (PG-13) ★ 1:15,1:15,3:15,4:45,6:20,7:45,9:40,10:40,12:40
- Witch Mount (PG) 1:15,3:40,6:15,8:50,11:20
- Last House (R) 12:30,5:30,6:50,9:45,12:20
- Watchmen (R) 1:10,4:40,8:15,11:50
- Madea Goes (PG-13) 2:20,8:00
- Slumdog Mill (R) 5:15,10:30

Twitter takes

What movie did the Twitterverse watch this week? Here are some of your tiny reviews—under 140 characters to be exact. If you want to review a movie for RedEye on Twitter, just sign up at twitter.com/redeyechicago and send us a tweet (message). Please limit them to ones still in theaters.

COMPILED BY SCOTT KLEINBERG.

@kevinctillo Above all else, "I Love You, Man" signals that the "Bromance" genre needs a rest. Some laughs, but many are cheap and tired.

@mattraskin I Love You, Man quite possibly the best bromance to date. The balance of romantic and crude comedy is perfect in every way.

Sunshine Cleaning

@vaughnchicago Sunshine Cleaning was an enjoyable little movie.

Knowing

@jsolomonii Started excellent, but then turned into a version of the bibles apocalypse. The ending was so not worth it.

Crossing Over

@vaughnchicago Crossing Over was a dreary movie that underscored the fact that there are no easy answers to the illegal immigration problem.

Duplicity

@Trickykidd Clive & Julia are top corporate spies, but in work and love, who can you trust? Elements of Oceans 11-13. Plods.

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- Monsters (PG) ★ 1:10,3:50,6:30,9:10
- The Cross (PG) ★ 2:20,4:40,7:10,9:40
- 12 Rounds (PG-13) ★ 1:40,4:45,7:20,10:10
- Knowing (PG-13) ★ 1:15,2:15,4:15,5:10,7:15,8:00,10:15
- I Love You, Man (R) ★ 2:10,4:50,7:45,10:30
- Duplicity (PG-13) ★ 1:20,3:40,6:40,9:50
- Witch Mount (PG) 1:00,3:50,6:40,9:10
- Last House (R) 12:30,3:30,6:20,9:15
- Watchmen (R) 2:45,6:15,9:45

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- Sunshine Clean (R) 12:20,2:35,4:50,7:10,9:25
- Duplicity (PG-13) 11:00,1:40,4:20,7:00,9:40
- I Love You, Man (R) 12:25,4:45,5:05,7:25,9:45
- Knowing (PG-13) 11:20,2:00,4:00,4:20,7:20,10:00
- Witch Mount (PG) 12:00,2:15,4:30,6:45,9:00

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- Monsters vs. (PG) ★ 11:30,2:00,4:30,7:00,9:30
- Monsters vs. (PG) ★ 12:05,12:40,1:20,2:35,3:10,3:50,5:05,5:40,6:20,7:35,8:10,8:50,10:05
- Monsters (PG) 1:30,4:00,6:30,9:00
- 12 Rounds (PG-13) 1:40,4:40,7:20,10:10
- Knowing (PG-13) 1:20,15,2:15,4:15,5:15,7:15,8:00,10:15
- I Love You, Man (R) 10:45,12:30,1:40,3:30,4:40,6:40,7:45,9:45,10:30
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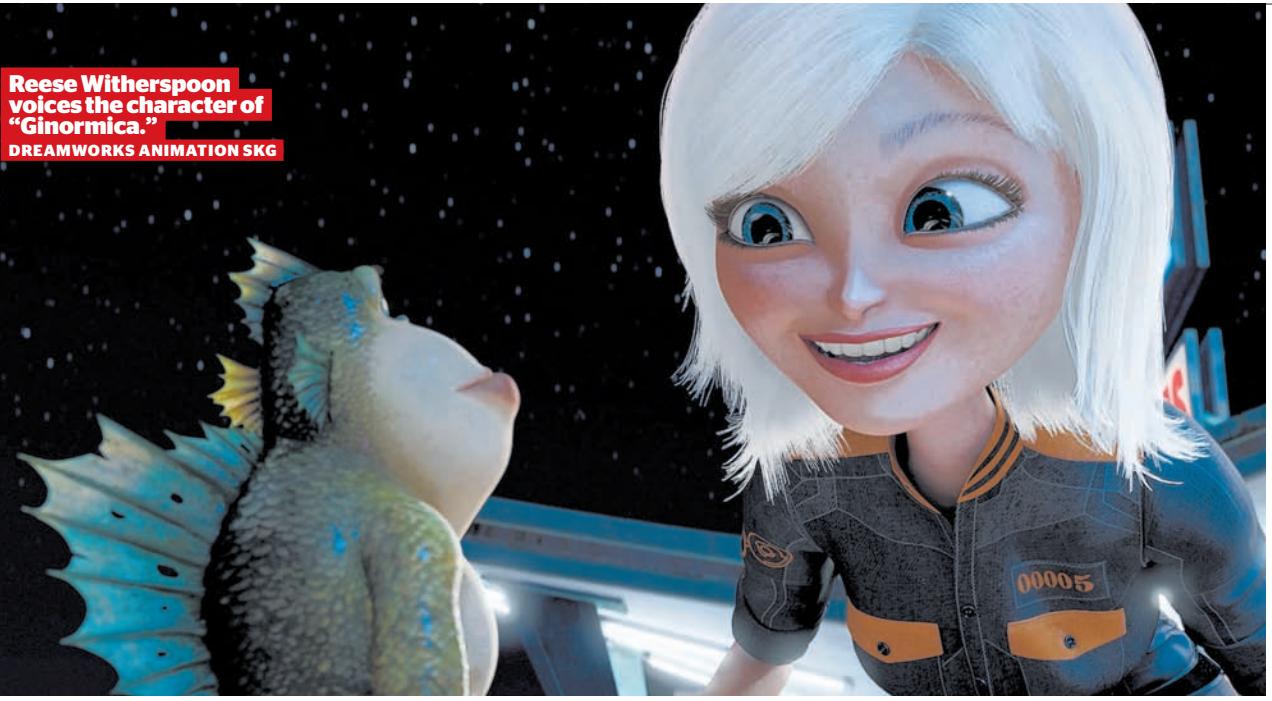
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**Reese Witherspoon
voices the character of
“Ginormica.”**
DREAMWORKS ANIMATION SKG



Reese's 'Ginormica' role

The Washington Post

Reese Witherspoon's kids are at the age where they discover a movie they like and proceed to watch it "over and over and over again."

Her 9-year-old daughter, Ava, and 5-year-old son, Deacon, don't get bored of their favorites and don't find themselves satisfied with a third viewing. They just get excited to watch it again.

So it's no surprise that the 33-year-old Oscar winner is working back-to-back on major animated feature films.

"It's nice to be able to go to the movie theater and have a film there that's OK for kids, but it also has some adult humor in it that kids won't necessarily catch," she said from her L.A. home. "It's great to do those movies, because I have to watch a lot of them."

The first of those movies to be released is the 3-D "Monsters vs. Aliens." In it, Witherspoon lends her voice to a would-be bride who is struck by an asteroid with radioactive material that turns her into a 49-foot-11-inch woman renamed "Ginormica" by her new government captors.

Paul Rudd plays Witherspoon's narcissistic fiance. The two will be reunited for her next proj-

ect, a comedy directed by James L. Brooks that adds Owen Wilson to the mix.

"I couldn't be happier," Witherspoon said. "I'm very, very lucky, and I get to work with some really great people."

Witherspoon also has signed on for "The Bear and the Bow," a Pixar animated film set for a 2011 release in which she gives voice to a mythical Scottish princess. She says she was attracted not only to the content of the films, but to the endeavor itself.

"It's a very different process," Witherspoon said. "I got into a sound booth probably once every couple months for three or four hours."

And though it takes less time, she adds, it requires much more imagination.

"There is nothing visually in front of you to inform the scene," she said. "And you don't have a full script in front of you, so you don't even know what's going to happen next."

She got to see "Monsters vs. Aliens" recently in a theater full of kids wearing 3-D glasses, her own two among them.

"They loved it," she said. "They thought it was so awesome."

FAST PAUSED



"If the difference between a movie and an ad is substantial character and excitement and story, then 'Monsters vs. Aliens' is officially a toy commercial."

» Read Matt Pais' full review in Saturday's RedEye or at metromix.com.

Back to the B's

From news services

Reese Witherspoon has fond memories of the sci-fi flicks of the 1950s and '60s that "Monsters vs. Aliens" evokes.

"I thought it was really cool because I had always liked those movies," she said. "My dad and I always used to sit up late watching them."

Rob Letterman and Conrad Vernon, the directors of "Monsters vs. Aliens," also love the genre. They watched 150 B movies from the 1950s, '60s and '70s on DVD to do character research for "Monsters vs. Aliens."

"There's just something very funny and comfortable about those old-time monsters," Vernon said. "Compared to all the horrors we're living with today, I'll take a lagoon creature with slimy tentacles any day of the week."

Each of the new movie's five monsters has DNA traceable to those films, although none is a mere copy of an older character.

» Witherspoon's character, Susan, is a normal woman who grows to be 49 feet 11 inches tall after a meteorite lands on her, a la "Attack of the 50 Foot Woman."

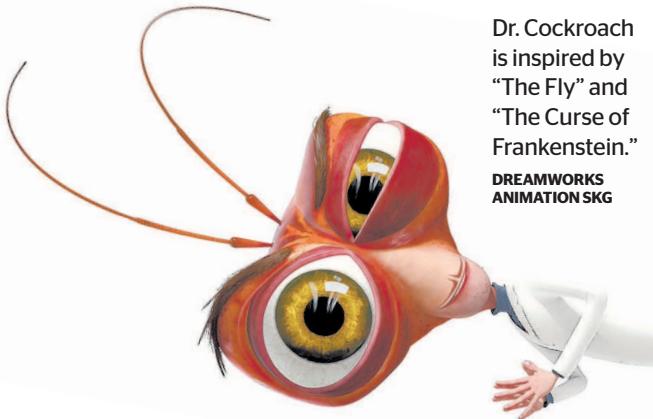
» Dr. Cockroach, played by Hugh Laurie, has the head of a bug after a lab experiment goes horribly wrong, represents "The Fly" and "The Curse of Frankenstein."

» A whole subgenre of slithering and slimy characters ("The Blob," "The Crawling Eye") became B.O.B., a friendly monster who started life as a genetically altered tomato.

» Insectosaurus, a 350-foot-tall grub turned monster by nuclear radiation, is a nod to "Mothra," a 1961 Japanese entry in the genre.

» Although "Creature From the Black Lagoon" is an obvious inspiration for Missing Link, Vernon said, "Link really just represents anything prehistoric that comes back to life and terrorizes people."

NEW YORK TIMES, WASHINGTON POST CONTRIBUTED.



Dr. Cockroach is inspired by "The Fly" and "The Curse of Frankenstein."

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Cena wrestles with film career

The Atlanta Journal-Constitution

John Cena doesn't necessarily need a gun to defend himself. But he knows how to use one.

During a recent visit to the Wild West Traders Gun Shop and Shooting Range in Austell, Ga., the WWE wrestler-turned-actor grabbed a .45, loaded it with 12 bullets in homage to his film, "12 Rounds," and shot at a paper target 21 feet away.

The verdict: Nine out of 12 bullets hit the tiny circle in the center.

"I'm from a small town," Cena said afterward. "Shooting was the only thing to do. I shot my first rifle when I was 10 years old."

In the drama "12 Rounds," opening Friday, Cena uses plenty of guns. He plays a cop who accidentally kills a madman's girlfriend. The bad guy later kidnaps the cop's girlfriend and forces Cena's character to go through "12 rounds" of games, kind of like those in "Die Hard With a Vengeance."

"It very much mimics pieces" of that film, Cena acknowledged. And not coincidentally, the "12 Rounds" director, Renny Harlin, did "Die Hard 2."

Portraying a cop wasn't a big stretch for him. "I have a brother who's a cop and a younger brother who used to be a cop," he said.

Cena still is best known as the face of "WWE Monday Night Raw," which draws

more than 4 million viewers a week on USA Network. His wrestling character has evolved over the years. He began as a "street thug from West Newbury (Mass.)," his hometown, he said. "The urban country kid who can rap. I was really hated."

But over time, as his popularity increased, he became more lovable. Eventually, he just played himself and became WWE's biggest current star.

Cena's first stab at mainstream movie stardom was "The Marine" in 2006. But critics panned it and it did poorly in theaters.

The new film, he said, "is so much better. It's amazing. The budgets of the two films were about the same. But you watch 'The Marine,' and you'll wonder, 'Where did the money go?'"

His move toward acting is similar to that of Dwayne Johnson, who was known in wrestling circles as "The Rock" and is now a bona fide movie star. Cena gives Johnson kudos: "He's done such a great job for himself, a nice guy, a consummate professional."

But unlike Johnson, Cena has no immediate plans to leave WWE, regardless of how successful "12 Rounds" might be.

"I'm very comfortable doing both," he said. "I turn 32 in April. Our life span is comparable to major league baseball. I can compete into my 40s. No reason to take those 4 million viewers and throw them away."

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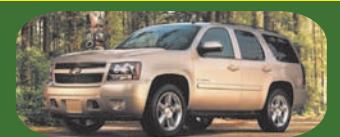
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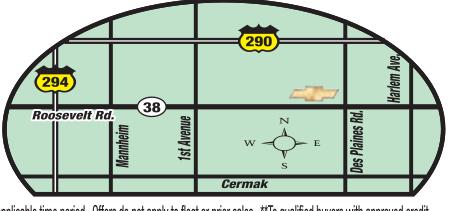
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Coming up Anika Noni Rose

Anika Noni Rose has starred opposite some big-name singers.

In "Dreamgirls," she sang with Beyoncé and Chicago's own Jennifer Hudson. In "From Justin to Kelly"—"a masterpiece," she jokes—Rose danced with "American Idol" alums Kelly Clarkson and Justin Guarini.

But Rose, who won a 2004 Tony Award for best actress in a musical for "Caroline, or Change," knows something about music too. And that helped her prepare for her latest role—a non-musical one—in HBO's new series "The No. 1 Ladies' Detective Agency."

Rose co-stars, coincidentally, with yet another singer, R&B star Jill Scott, in the series that's set in Botswana. To play their



show patrol

CURT WAGNER
cwwagner@tribune.com

African characters, the actresses had to learn to speak in the local dialect, a task that Rose embraced and mastered thanks to her love of music.

"It's something that gives me joy," Rose told me Thursday during a chat at RedEye's offices. "Dialect is like music; it's like learning a song. You can learn the song, but if you don't learn the rhythm it doesn't really matter."

Rose gives a delightfully funny performance as Grace Makutsi, the uptight secretary hired by Precious Ramotswe (Scott) after Precious decides to move to the city of Gaborone to open a detective agency.

"She's a perfectionist of the first order," Rose said, laughing. "Sometimes things go wrong because she's trying so hard to make them right."

Rose liked how quirky Grace was, and that because she worries less about her looks than her professional skills, Grace is a lot different than Rose's "Dreamgirls" character, Lorrell Robinson.

"I'd spent two years being more glammed up than I ever thought I'd be in my life," Rose said of her time starring in

The No. 1 Ladies' Detective Agency

7 p.m. Sunday, HBO

and promoting "Dreamgirls." "I wanted to do something completely different."

Different doesn't begin to describe Rose's first film role, as Kaya in "From Justin to Kelly." Rose laughs about the 2003 big screen bomb, but has no regrets about doing it. It paid off a school loan, she said, and she learned a lot about acting. She also said she's been stopped, more than once, by screaming fans of the movie.

"For some people's lives, it made a difference," she said, laughing.

Since she's starred with so many recording artists, I had to ask if she had plans to record an album herself. She said she started out wanting to be a singer.

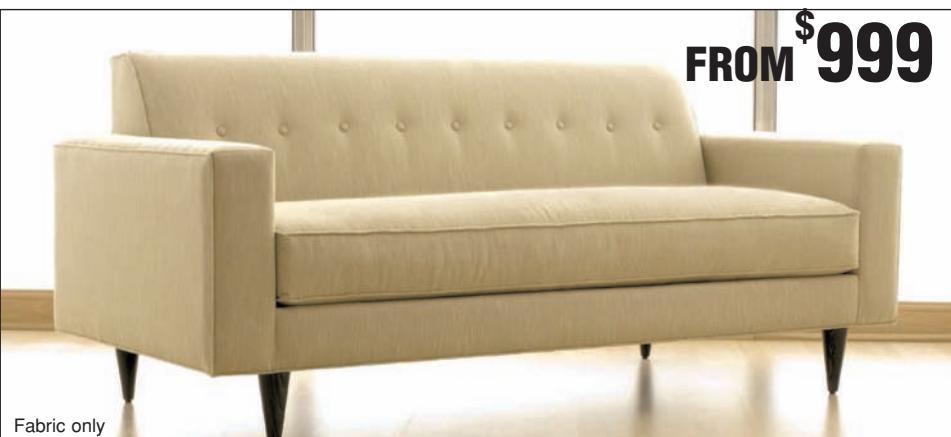
"I'd love to do that," she said. "Any producers want to come forward and be helpful, that'd be great."

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TV

**"Making of Me:
John Barrowman"**

9 p.m. Sunday, BBC America

The star of "Torchwood," who grew up in the Chicago area, returns to the Windy City as part of his search to uncover the origins of his homosexuality. He believes people are born gay, and he consults scientists using state-of-the-art research to prove it. Barrowman also judges the talent show "Any Dream Will Do," in which 50 actors compete to play the lead in a new production of the musical "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat" (7 p.m. BBC America). CURT WAGNER, REDEYE

MUSIC VIDEO

Fever Ray's "When I Grow Up"

at youtube.com

Karin Dreijer Andersson has a day job in the Swedish electro-pop duo The Knife. Andersson is stepping out with Fever Ray. The new video for "When I Grow Up" features haunting Bjorkish vocals amongst a spare arrangement of dark synths and the artist writhing around on a diving board. SARAH ZUPKO, POPMATTERS.COM

Barrowman
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GAMES

The Maw \$10 at Xbox Live Arcade

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The Maw

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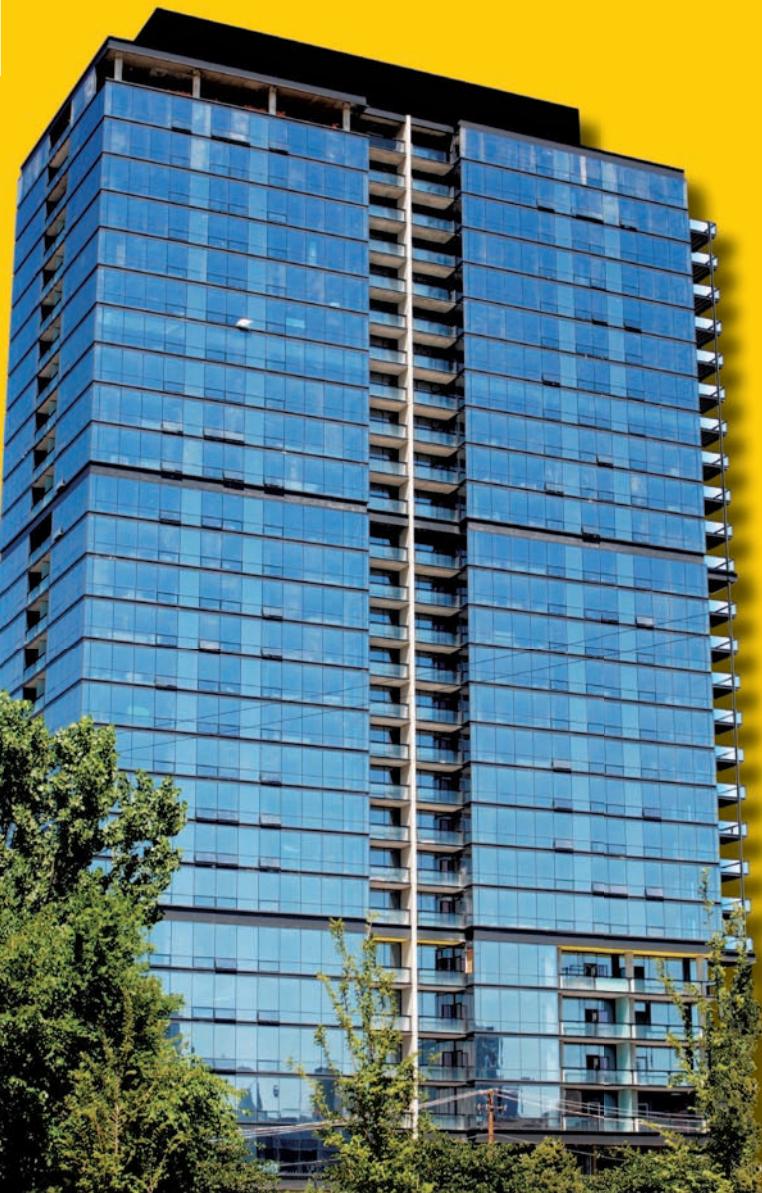
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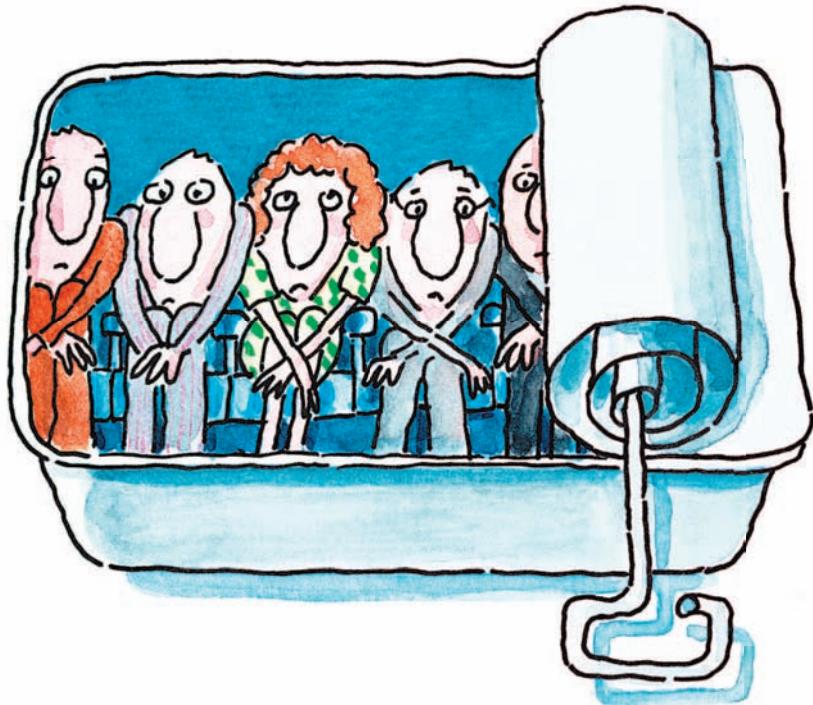
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The setup: In the film "I Love You, Man," Paul Rudd's character overhears his fiance telling her girlfriends about how he is in bed.

How much about your sex life should you tell your friends?



No holds barred when sex is bad

I don't make a practice of providing sexual details about boyfriends. The unspoken rule of my circle is that we don't talk specifics if we're dating someone who has the potential to turn into a serious relationship. A friend might announce when she and her man have hooked up for the first time or make occasional comments about frequency. We don't pry for greater details than she's willing to divulge. If he's hooking her up and she's happy, we're happy. If it's a casual relationship, however, and the sex is bad, we're brutal. We talk in-depth and give colorful nicknames based on his sexual idiosyncrasies. I can't remember the names of a lot of friends' exes, but I know exactly who "The Biter," "Little Big Horn," and "The Jackhammer" are.

GINA B. IS A REDEYE SPECIAL CONTRIBUTOR.



Easy on the TMI

Keep your mouth shut; to blab far and wide about your lover's horizontal abilities is about as classless as you can get. If you're not satisfied with her sexual talents, tell HER that, not everyone else in the greater Chicagoland area. Instead of causing embarrassment, share some tips to improve the experience—you'll both benefit from the advice. And, if you're blessed with a super-skilled partner, telling others about it is bragging, and that's just cruel. Either way, a lady never blabs about her partner's bedroom skills.

JENNI SPINNER IS A REDEYE SPECIAL CONTRIBUTOR.



Nothing's sacred

Absolutely everything you do is fair game for consumption by your friends, and I'll tell you why: because your partner is doing the exact same thing. No matter how embarrassing or revolting your sexual inclinations, there is no doubt your significant other has already gleefully shared this information with his or her friends. This is because 1) everyone wants to make sure they are cool and doing the stuff everyone else is doing and 2) everyone wants to make sure they are not sick or depraved and doing stuff only found in the really deep nether-reaches of the Internet. When I was 17, I told my friends everything because I was really worried about point No. 1, and now I tell them things because I'm truly freaked about point No. 2.

STEPHEN MARKLEY IS A REDEYE SPECIAL CONTRIBUTOR.

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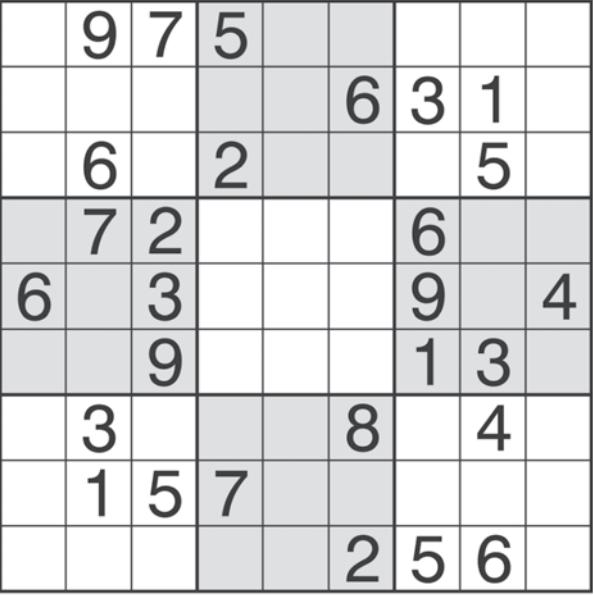
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David Staples of Logan Square crushed John this week. Think you can take him? E-mail redyeeditor@tribune.com or text "John" and your e-mail address to 87708 to play.

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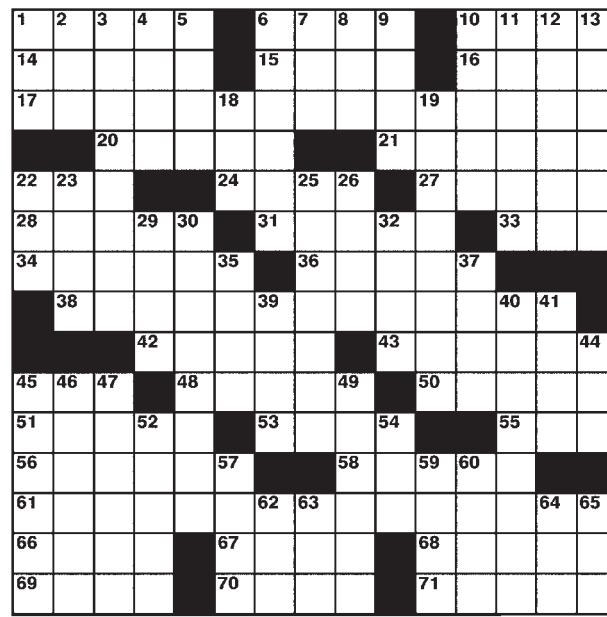
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whoville

BY
JIM
WALSH



What a Fiasco!

The word is out about Lupe Fiasco's upcoming third album, "Lasers."

And aside from the excitement surrounding his newly named disc, there's something else to get psyched about. Lupe's on Twitter! A rep for the Chicago rapper has confirmed to Entertainment Weekly that the tweets on his WeAreLasers Twitter feed are legit. Also legit, according to EW, is the title of Lupe's

upcoming third album, "Lasers."

On his feed, Lupe said the album is "around 60 percent done" but warned fans to watch out for "phony" song titles that might leak before the album's release date, which has not been announced.

In other Lupe news, his Twitter feed is all over the place. To illustrate this, we've compiled a few of his actual tweets and arranged them into lyrics that would be perfect for his next project.

Like La Gears!

Like La Gears!

The yeezy's are dope ...

I had the phony ones from Payless

Cuz they were free

Yeah I'm still retiring

Lost a bet

... planted the seeds of a fashion empire ... the win-win

Like La Gears!

Like La Gears!

Lupe Fiasco
GETTY IMAGES FILE

CELEB NEWS TICKER

Shawn Johnson fan charged with stalking » Ellen gives Jennifer Hudson tandem bike for engagement gift » Jeremy Piven cites President Obama calling mercury poisoning the "world's gravest chemical problem" » Justin Timberlake not working on new album » Kelly Osbourne: I'm waiting five years to get married » Isaiah Washington to play music great Lou Rawls

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red hot

BYE BYE

Blender magazine's April issue—featuring Kelly Clarkson on the cover—will be its last.

The music and entertainment mag is ceasing publication, its owner, the Alpha Media Group, announced on Thursday. The magazine's Web site, blender.com, will continue.

So what kind of topics does Clarkson touch on in what will be Blender's last cover interview? Peeing in the shower ("Anybody who says they don't is lying"), nudity ("I'm the kind of person who just doesn't like clothes") and talking about anything ("I do not lie. Ever.").



Drillbit done

It's back to the oil fields for Michael Sarver. The 27-year-old oil rigger from Jasper, Texas, was sent home on Thursday's "American Idol." His rendition of "Ain't to Proud to Beg" didn't excite voters who called in more than 36 million votes after Wednesday's performance show. He needed to beg after performing again for the judges Thursday. They didn't save him from elimination.

Sarver probably won't go back to his old job—the fifth most dangerous in the world, he said—right away. As a member of the Top 10, he gets to go on the Idols in Concert tour that kicks off in April.



Sarver
FOX



Another Madonna adoption

Madonna's adopting yet another kid from Malawi. Officials confirm that she's filed adoption papers and is flying to Malawi in the next few days, Reuters reports. She reportedly will be traveling with David Banda, whom she adopted from the African country in 2006. David's birth father, Yohane Banda, confirmed to the Reuters that he was informed his son would be arriving shortly.



The cable gal

Ruh roh. Looks like Lindsay Lohan's new movie, "Labor Pains," is headed straight to cable.

Access Hollywood reports the comedy in which Lohan plays a secretary who fakes a pregnancy will air on ABC Family in July, with a DVD release in August. Reportedly, international audiences will get the wide-screen release. Lucky them.



Rihanna's got a gun

Rihanna has added another tatt to her collection—this time of a small gun on her upper

right torso, just under her arm, People reports. According to her tattoo artist BangBang—yes, that's his name—she had considered putting guns on her shoulders but, "she's very beautiful and it took away from her face a little bit."

GO

I won't pretend I'm into something I'm not. I won't do it to myself, you the fan, or my former partner. I can't just, 'Cash the check' so to speak. Music is my life. It is sacred."



THE DIGIT

\$1 billion

The amount in sales the Rock Band franchise has hit in North America since taking the market 15 months ago, according to a press release issued by publisher Electronic Arts

—Former Smashing Pumpkins drummer **Jimmy Chamberlin** about quitting the band, as posted Tuesday on his blog.